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Message Text

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 RSR-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-15 /113 W
---------- 126281
P R 191040 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3404
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USDEL JEC PARIS
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
USAJFKCMA
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDAO SAIGON
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CINCPACAF
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DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 10971

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR ECON VS
SUBJECT: EMBASSY SAIGON' S MISSION WEEKLY JUNE 13-19, 1973

BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEPT ALSO FOR AID/ W; CINCPAC FOR POLAD;
DOD PRO USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS- WL- DSA

THE WEEK IN BRIEF

- JOINT COMMUNIQUE IS FOLLOWED BY CONTINUED FIGHTING, BUT AT SLACKENED PACE; SOME REACTION TO COMMUNIQUE IN SAIGON IS PESSIMISTIC

- FOUR SLATES OF CANDIDATES FILE FOR UPPER HOUSE ELECTION

- ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATED JUNE 19

- MRS. NGO BA THANH TRANSFERRED TO BIEN HOA REFORMATORY

- HIGH- LEVEL GVN SPOKESMEN PROCLAIM FIRM STAND ON PARIS COMMUNIQUE

- NO DATE SET FOR NEXT GVN/ PRG BILATERAL SESSION

- FOREIGN MINISTRY DENOUNCES COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF NEW CEASEFIRE

- DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CREATES NEW MINISTRY

- USAID RETAIL PRICE INDEX MOVES UP 0.8 PERCENT DURING WEEK

I. INTERNAL
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A. CEASEFIRE EVENTS

1. THE PRINCIPAL EVENT OF THE WEEK WAS THE SIGNATURE ON JUNE 13 IN PARIS OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUING A RENEWED CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE AT NOON JUNE 15 SAIGON TIME. THE COMMUNIQUE' S APPEARANCE FOLLOWED A WEEK OF INTENSE SPECULATION THAT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS WERE PENDING WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO A RENEWED COMMUNIST LAND- GRAB. INDEED, COMMUNIST FORCES DEPLOYED IN A THREATENING FASHION AND IN KONTUM LAUNCHED A SUCCESSFUL MINI-OFFENSIVE. ENEMY FORCES ALSO DEALT BLOWS TO RVN FORCES IN QUANG NAM AND IN THE DELTA. REACTING, RVNAF LAUNCHED A NUMBER OF PRE- EMPTIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS. JUST PRIOR TO JUNE 15 FIGHTING REACHED THE MOST INTENSE LEVEL SINCE MID- FEBRUARY.

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2. WHILE NO COUNTRY- WIDE OFFENSIVE DEVELOPED COMPARABLE TO THE JANUARY COMMUNIST INITIATIVE, THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE HAS ALSO BROUGHT NO CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. FIGHTING HAS SLACKENED, ESPECIALLY IN NORTHERN MR-1, IN MOST OF MR-2, AND IN MR-3. ELSEWHERE, ESPECIALLY IN THE PROVINCES OF QUANG NAM, KONTUM, AND CHUONG THIEN, COMBAT CONTINUES.

3. MOST VIETNAMESE NATIONALISTS OUT OF GOVERNMENT HAVE REACTED PESSIMISTICALLY TO THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE; NONE TRUSTS THE COMMUNISTS; SOME SUSPECT THE US OF HAVING FORCED THE GVN INTO ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY ERODE THE GVN' S CONTENTION THAT IT IS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN SVN. THERE IS ALSO SUSPICION OF " SECRET AGREEMENTS" BETWEEN THE US AND THE COMMUNISTS. PRO- GVN CONTACTS DEFEND THE AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLY OPENING THE WAY TO USEFUL NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THERE IS DEEP- SEATED DOUBT THAT ANY GENUINE POLITICAL COMPROMISE IS POSSIBLE.

4. THE GVN THIS WEEK TOOK A NUMBER OF STEPS TO EXPOUND AND DEFEND ITS POSITION ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. ON JUNE 14, FONMIN LAM GAVE AN EXHAUSTIVE PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE LAID DOWN THE BASIC GVN LINE THAT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE IS ONLY AN ELABORATION ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND CONSTITUTES NO NEW DEPARTURE. THE FOLLOWING DAY LAM, PRESIDENTIAL PRIVATE SECRETARY NHA, AND LT GEN THUAN, CHIEF RVN DEL ON THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC), APPEARED TOGETHER ON TV. THEY CONFIDENTIAL

AGAIN EXPRESSED A FAIRLY TOUGH NEGOTIATING LINE. THESE PERFORMANCES BY LAM WERE EFFECTIVE AND WELL- RECEIVED BY THE EVER- SKEPTICAL FOR- EIGN PRESS AND VIETNAMESE PUBLIC ALIKE. (SEE PART II BELOW FOR FURTHER ELABORATION OF THE GVN POSITION AS PRESENTED ON THESE OCCASIONS.) GVN RADIO AND TV ARE CLAIMING THAT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE IS

DESIGNED TO " FORCE" THE COMMUNISTS TO COMPLY WITH THE PRESS AGREE- MENT AND HAVE EMPHASIZED COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF CEASEFIRE II, WHICH IN THE FIRST 72 HOURS THE GVN CHARGED HAD REACHED 289.

5. FOCUS OF ATTENTION HAS SHIFTED TO THE TPJMC, WHERE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ARE TO BE DISCUSSED. THESE INCLUDE CONTACTS BETWEEN FIELD COMMAND- ERS, WHICH WERE TO HAVE BEGUN WITHIN 24 HOURS OF CEASEFIRE II BUT HAVE

NOT OCCURRED; DELINEATION OF AREAS OF CONTROL AND THE MODALITIES OF STATIONING; DEPLOYMENT; PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES; AND FURTHER POW AND CIVILIAN DETAINEE RELEASES. THE JUNE 18 TPJMC PLENARY FAILED TO DEAL SUCCESSFULLY WITH ANY OF THESE ISSUES.

6. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO INSTANCES SINCE CEASEFIRE II OF FIRING ON ICCS- MARKED HELICOPTERS OVER PRG- CONTROLLED TERRITORY. ONE HELICOPTER WAS HIT, BUT NO ONE WAS INJURED. THIS HAS DEEPLY

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DISTURBED THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS.

B. FOUR SLATES FILE FOR THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION

1. FOLLOWING A WEEK OF INTENSE BARGAINING AMONG POLITICAL GROUPS IN SAIGON, FOUR SLATES OF CANDIDATES EMERGED JUNE 17 IN THE FIRST POSTING FOR THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. UNLESS TWO OF THEM FAIL TO STAY IN THE RACE LATER ON, THIS ASSURES A FORMALLY CONTESTED ELECT
-
ION FOR THE 30 OPEN SEATS. (EACH SLATE CONTAINS 15 CANDIDATES TO BE ELECTED IN A BLOCK. A 31 ST SEAT IS ALSO OPEN DUE TO A VACANCY AND WILL GO TO A SPECIAL 16 TH CANDIDATE ON THE TOP VOTE- GETTING SLATE. ALL SLATES DESIGNATE A 16 TH MEMBER FOR THIS POST.)

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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USDEL JEC PARIS
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
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AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
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DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG

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2. TWO OF THE SLATES APPEAR MARKEDLY STRONGER THAN THE OTHER TWO. SINCE BOTH OF THE STRONG ONES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, THEY ARE BEING VIEWED BY OPPOSITION AND INDEPENDENT POLITICIANS AS THE OBVIOUS WINNERS, WITH THE OTHER TWO SLATES DISMISS-

ED AS EFFORTS BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE A COLORING OF COMPETITION. CRITICS REINFORCE THIS ARGUMENT BY NOTING THE ADMINISTRATION' S REFUSAL TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR FILING CANDIDACIES. (STRICTLY FOLLOWING THE TEXT OF THE ELECTION LAW AND NOT USING WHAT APPEARS TO BE DISCRETIONARY POWER TO CHANGE THE SCHEDULE, THE PRIME MINISTER SET THE DEADLINE FOR SIX DAYS AFTER THE LAW' S PROMULGATION.) UNFORTUNATELY, REPORTS OF UNSUCCESSFUL LAST- MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS TO FORGE ADDITIONAL SLATES AND THE INTERNAL EVIDENCE OF THE SLATES THEMSELVES GIVES CREDENCE TO THESE CRITICISMS.

3. THE TWO LIKELY WINNERS ARE THE " DEMOCRACY" SLATE AND THE " WHITE ELEPHANT" SLATE. THE FORMER IS RECOGNIZED AS THE FORMAL LIST OF THE GOVERNMENT' S DEMOCRACY PARTY AND IS HEADED BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, WHO WAS A DP CO- FOUNDER. THE LATTER IS LED BY FOREIGN MINISTERTRAN VAN LAM AND INCLUDES SEVERAL DP MEMBERS. THE OTHE TWO SLATES, NAMES " SHEAF OF RICE" AND " POPULAR SELF-DETERMINATION" DO NOT CONTAIN WELL- KNOWN PERSONALITIES, ALTHOUGH ONE OF THEM HAS CONNECTIONS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS GROUP.

4. THE SECOND AND FINAL POSTING OF CANDIDATES IS SET FOR JULY 9, FOLLOWING A PERIOD DURING WHICH CHALLENGES, IF ANY, AGAINST CANDIDATES ARE REVIEWED. THE CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN JULY 27, AND ELECTION DAY IS AUGUST 26.

C. ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATED JUNE 19

ON THE OCCASION OF ARMED FORCES DAY JUNE 19, PRESIDENT THIEU DELIVERED AN ADDRESS IN WHICH HE PRAISED THE MILITARY
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FOR ITS VICTORIES AND CALLED FOR CONTINUED VIGILANCE. THIEU TOLD HIS LISTENERS THAT ANOTHER COMMUNIST INVASION CAN BE AVOIDED ONLY BY MAINTAINING A STRONG MILITARY FORCE CAPABLE OF DEFEATING " ALL OF THE COMMUNISTS' AGGRESSIVE ACTIVITIES".

2. HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS INCLUDED A TWO- HOUR MILITARY PARADE FEATUREING BRIGHT UNIFORMS, ARMOR, AND OVER- FLIGHTS OF MASSED AIRCRAFT.

D. ALLEGED COMMUNIST NGO BA THANH TRANSFERRED TO BIEN HOA REFORMATORY

MRS. NGO BA THANH, THE CONTROVERSIAL LEFTIST AND ALLEGED COMMUNIST, HAS BEEN MOVED FROM THE NATIONAL POLICE HOSPITAL IN SAIGON TO THE BIEN HOA REFORMATORY, WHERE SHE HAD BEEN CONFINED BEFORE GOING ON A HUNGER STRIKE IN MID- APRIL. ACCORDING TO HER LAWYER, SENATOR VU VAN MAU, SHE ENDED HER STRIKE WHILE AT THE POLICE HOSPITAL, BUT RESUMED IT AFTER HER TRANSFER. MAU SAID HE IS APPEALING TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ASKING THAT THE GVN GRANT HER A PASSPORT SO THAT SHE CAN TAKE UP COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY' S OFFER OF A POSITION AS A VISITING SCHOLAR. IN THE MEANTIME, MAU HAS URGED MRS. THANH TO HALT HER HUNGER STRIKE.

E. SAIGON MEDIA REVIEW

RIGHT UP TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN PARIS, THE SAIGON PRESS GAVE CONTINUOUS HEAVY COVERAGE TO SPECULATIVE REPORTS ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE AGREEMENT. THE PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE ITSELF WAS THE DOMINANT TOPIC IN THE PAPERS ON JUNE 14 AND 15. SEVERAL PAPERS GAVE THE COMPLETE TEXT. SINCE THEN, THE PRESS HAS MAINTAINED STEADY INTEREST IN THE EFFECTS OF CEASEFIRE II, STRESSING PARTICULARLY THE GVN POSITION AS EXPOUNDED BY FOREIGN MINISTER LAM AND OTHERS. THIS STORY OCCASIONALLY SHARED THE SPOTLIGHT WITH OTHER TOPICS, NOTABLY THE BARGAINING THAT WAS UNDERWAY ALL WEEK IN SAIGON POLITICAL CIRCLES FOR UPPER HOUSE ELECTION SLATES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FOUR SLATES WAS PROMINENTLY COVERED JUNE 19.

EDITORIALS DURING THE WEEK FOCUSED ON THE PARIS TALKS AND
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THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. OPINIONS VARIED ON THE COMMUNIQUE, BUT A MEASURE OF RESERVE WAS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED ABOUT ITS ABILITY TO STOP THE FIGHTING.

SAIGON RADIO AND TELEVISION HAVE HIT HEAVILY ON THE GVN' S POSITION CONCERNING THE NEW CEASEFIRE. CONTINUED EMPHASIS HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO THE THEME OF ECONOMIC DEVELOP- MENT. SHORTLY BEFORE ARMED FORCES DAY, FEATURES APPEARED

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PRAISING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

PART II. EXTERNAL

A. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN VIET- NAM

THE FIRST FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO VIET- NAM SINCE THE SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN PARIS AND SAIGON IN 1965 ARRIVED IN VIET- NAM FRIDAY, JUNE 15. HE IS JEAN MARIE MERILLON, MOST RECENTLY FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN JORDAN.

B. GVN AIRS FIRM STAND ON INTERPRETATION OF PARIS COMMUNIQUE

OM A PRESS CONFERENCE BY FOREIGN MINISTER LAM ON JUNE 14 (SAIGON 10627) AND A TV INTERVIEW OF LAM, COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION NHA, AND GVN DELEGATE TO JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION GEN THUAN, ON JUNE 15 (FBIS S 160900 Z), THE GVN STATED ITS INTENTION OF ABIDING BY THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE PROVIDED THE OTHER SIDE DID SO. IN INTERPRETING VARIOUS CLAUSES OF COMMUNIQUE THESE HIGH OFFICIALS SET FORTH A GVN POSITION LITTLE CHANGED FROM ITS PRE- COMMUNIQUE STAND, STRESSING APPLICABILITY OF GVN CONSTITU- TION AND LAWS PENDING AGREEMENT ON GENERAL ELECTIONS, INDIVISI- BILITY OF PARIS AGREEMENTS WHEREBY IMPLEMENTATION OF EACH PART SUCH AS RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES DEPENDS UPON AGREEMENTS ON OTHERS SUCH AS TIMING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, INSISTENCE THAT ANY FUTURE DELINEATION OF VC TERRITORY WOULD RECOGNIZE ONLY TEMPORARY AREAS OF OPERATION OF SPECIFIC NVA/ VC UNITS, CONDITION THAT MEETINGS BETWEEN MILITARY COMMANDERS MUST BE AT DIVISION LEVEL, NEED FOR GVN TO DEFEND INTEGRITY AND SECURITY OF GVN TERRITORY AS WELL AS OBSERVE PARIS AGREEMENTS, ETC. ON ONE POINT IN JUNE 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, FOREIGN MINISTER LAM SET FORTH WHAT MAY BE A NEW GVN POSITION, NAMELY THAT NVA WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH VIET- NAM, WHILE STILL INSISTED UPON BY GVN, WAS NOT A PRECONDITION FOR

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THE HOLDING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS.

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
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C. NO DATE FOR NEXT GVN/ PRG BILATERAL MEETING

A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN HAS STATED THAT GVN/ PRG BILATERALS WOULD RESUME TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS COMMUNIQUE, " WHICH DOES NOT DIFFER FROM PARIS AGREEMENT OF JANUAYR 27", BUT THAT BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO DELAY RESUMPTION UNTIL THE END OF JUNE AND THAT NO DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION. MEANWHILE THE GVN CHIEF DELEGATE TO THESE CONSULTATIONS, DEPUTY PIRIME MINISTER NGUYEN BUU VIEN, RETURNED TO SAIGON FROM PARIS ON JUNE 17 FOR CONSULTATIONS.

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D. FOREIGN MINISTER TO TAKE LEAVE OF ABSENCE

FOREIGN MINISTER LAM HAS ANNOUNCED HW EILL TAKE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, IN ORDER TO RUN FOR THE SENATE (SEE INTERNAL ABOVE), AS OF JULY 9 THE DATE FOR THE SECOND POSTING OF CANDIDATES.

E. FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF NEW CEASEFIRE

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON JUNE 18 DENOUNCING THE COMMUNISTS FOR 289 VIOLATIONS OF CEASEFIRE FROM JUNE 15 TO 18, AND WARNING THAT CONTINUED VIOLATIONS WOULD JEOPARDIZE ATTAINMENT OF A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

F. HANOI NOTES BREZHNEV DEPARTURE FOR US

HANOI RADIO ON JUNE 17 NOTED TERSELY THAT GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV HAD LEFT MOSCOW JUNE 16 TO VISIT THE US AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON.

G. DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMES CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS CONFIDENTIAL

OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE

HANOI' S VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (VNA) REPORTED ON JUNE 16 THAT THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD SENT A NOTE ON JUNE 15 TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN LAST FEBRUARY' S INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET- NAM INFORMING THEM OF THE SIGNING OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON JUNE 13. VNA SAID A COPY OF THE COMMUNIQUE WAS FORWARDED TO EACH PARTICIPANTS.

H. DRV PREMIER TO LEAD DELEGATIONS ON VISITS TO MONGOLIA, NORTH KOREA

HANOI MEDIA ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 17 THAT PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG WOULD LEAD PARTY AND STATE DELEGATIONS ON " FRIENDLY, OFFICIAL" VISITS TO MONGOLIA AND NORTH KOREA " IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

I. DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CREATES NEW MINISTRY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUNE 14 APPROVED A PROPOSAL BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO MERGE THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION AND THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION INTO A NEW " MINISTRY OF BUILDING." THE NEW MINISTRY WILL BE HEADED BY DEPUTY PREMIER DO MUOI. THE STANDING COMMITTEE ALSO ANNOUNCED OTHER PERSONNEL SHIFTS AS FOLLOWS: NGUYEN CON RELIEVED AS DIRECTOR OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE TO ASSUME A POST IN THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS; NGUYEN NAM, A DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE STATE

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PLANNING COMMISSION, WILL STEP UP TO THE DIRECTORSHIP;
NGUYEN THANH BINH WILL REPLACE HA KE TAN AS MINISTER OF WATER
CONSERVANCY AS TAN ASSUMES THE POST OF " MINISTER IN CHARGE
OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DA RIVER DAM; AND BUI QUANG TAO,
HEAD OF THE FORMER MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION, WILL " ACCEPT
NEW TASKS." NO REPLACEMENT WAS NAMED FOR NGUYEN THANH BINH AS
DIRECTOR OF THE STATE INSPECTION COMMISSION.

END CONFIDENTIAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

III. ECONOMIC
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A. PRICES:

AFTER A BRIEF RESPITE FROM RAPIDLY RISING PRICES, THE
USAID RETAIL PRICE INDEX DURING THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 18 MOVED
MODERATELY AHEAD BY 0.8 PERCENT. PRICES HAVE ADVANCED BY 16.6
PERCENT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR AND BY 29.7 PERCENT IN
THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

FOOD PRICES ADVANCED BY 0.7 PERCENT REFLECTING ANOTHER
INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF RICE. ASIDE FROM GROWING CONSUMER
EXPECTATIONS THAT PRICES ARE GOING TO GO UP WHETHER PUSHED BY
THE VAT OR BY OTHER FORCES, RICE IS IN DEMAND AS LARGE SHIPMENTS
TO CENTRAL VIETNAM ARE UNDER WAY. MEAT AND FISH PRICES WERE
RELATIVELY STABLE AND VEGETABLE PRICES FLUCTUATED. FOOD PRICES
HAVE INCREASED 16.2 PERCENT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR
AND 29.2 PERCENT IN THE PAST YEAR.

NON- FOOD PRICES ROSE BY 1.3 PERCENT DURING THE WEEK
BECAUSE OF INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF SOME PHARMACEUTICALS AND
SOAP REFLECTING HIGHER IMPORTED PRICES AND BECAUSE OF AN INCREASE
IN THE PRICE OF SOLID FUEL. THIS OVERALL INCREASE MEANS THAT NON- FOOD
PRICES HAVE GONE UP 17.6 PERCENT SINCE THE END OF 1972 AND 31
PERCENT OVER THE PAST YEAR.

B. BLACK MARKET CURRENCY AND GOLD PRICES:

QUOTES FOR BLACK MARKET CURRENCY REMAINED AT THE
LEVELS OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND THEREFORE STILL AT A DISCOUNT.
$100 GREEN STAYED AT 495 AND $10 GREEN AT 490. THE HK$/ VN$ CROSS-
RATE DECLINED SHARPLY FROM 506 TO 494. GOLD PRICES MOVED DOWN
SLIGHTLY FROM 50,500 TO 50,200 PER TAEL. THIS CONVERTS IN
U. S. DOLLARS (AT 500:1) TO 83.77 PER TROY OUNCE OR $30.27 LESS
PER TROY OUNCE THAN THE CURRENT HONG KONG QUOTE OF $114.04.
END UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
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Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980217
Subject: EMBASSY SAIGON' S MISSION WEEKLY JUNE 13-19, 1973
TAGS: PINT
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
CANBERRA
JAKARTA
LONDON
MANILA
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PHNOM PENH
SEOUL
TOKYO
USIA
VIENTIANE
WARSAW
WELLINGTON
JEC PARIS
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
USAJFKCMA
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
NHA TRANG
USDAO SAIGON
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF F
CO TH PSYOP
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG
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